



## Defense Threat Reduction Agency Director Selected

**D**eputy Secretary of Defense John J. Hamre announced today the selection of Dr. Jay C. Davis, a physicist, to head the effort to stand-up the proposed Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) on Oct. 1, 1998. At stand-up, Davis will assume the position of DTRA director.

A key element for the Secretary's Defense Reform Initiative (DRI) is to strengthen the Department's ability to deal with the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Countering WMD proliferation may represent the most important security challenge of the next decade. DTRA will be the Department's focal point for addressing this complex and comprehensive problem. The new agency is to be formed by consolidating the On-Site Inspection Agency, the Defense Special Weapons Agency, the Defense Technology Security Administration, and some program functions of the Assistant for the Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs. The Director, DTRA will report directly to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology.

Davis is a nuclear physicist at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory currently serving as the Associate Director for Earth and Environmental Sciences, integrating the Laboratory's efforts in environmental research, development, and demonstration. He has been a scientific advisor to the United Nations Secretariat, several U.S. agencies, and to scientific agencies of the governments of Australia and New Zealand. He participated in two U.N. inspections of Iraq as an expert on mass spectrometer and construction techniques.

Davis, who will assume his duties as head of the DTRA stand-up effort in June is a fellow of the American Physical Society. He received his bachelor's degree and master's degree in physics from the University of Texas and his doctorate in physics from the University of Wisconsin.

**Editor's Note:** This information is in the public domain at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news> on the World Wide Web.